

6-3545/a

13 MAY 1961

Honorable Henry Dworshak  
United States Senate  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Senator Dworshak:

STAT This is in response to your letter regarding a report  
by  that the USSR has a nuclear powered aircraft.

We have previously studied this and other reports of the same type and determined that the characteristics attributed to this nuclear aircraft are far beyond the technical capabilities of the Soviet aircraft and nuclear industries. The reported cruising speed of 2500 miles per hour would mean that the air entering the aircraft would be heated by compression to about 1100° F. Further, heating of this air to provide thrust for propulsion would raise the temperature far beyond the temperature limits of the nuclear engine's structural material.

If further information is desired, please let us know.

Sincerely,

**SIGNED**

Allen W. Dulles  
Director

46 R  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

SENDER WILL CHECK CLASSIFICATION TOP AND BOTTOM			
UNCLASSIFIED		CONFIDENTIAL	
<b>CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP</b>			
TO	NAME AND ADDRESS	INITIALS	DATE
1	DD/I - 354 Admin	RAG/	5/9/61
3	IG - 231 Admin <i>(out of town until Wed.)</i>	LBN	20 May
2	DDCI - 203 Admin <i>W</i>		
4	DCI - 221 Admin		
5			
6			
	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>DIRECT REPLY</b>	<b>PREPARE REPLY</b>
	<b>APPROVAL</b>	<b>DISPATCH</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>
	<b>COMMENT</b>	<b>FILE</b>	<b>RETURN</b>
	<b>CONCURRENCE</b>	<b>INFORMATION</b>	<b>SIGNATURE</b>
<b>Remarks:</b>			
Letter to be hand carried by Legislative Counsel after signature by DCI.			
<b>FOLD HERE TO RETURN TO SENDER</b>			
<b>FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.</b>			<b>DATE</b>
OGC/LC - 221 East			8 May 61
UNCLASSIFIED		CONFIDENTIAL	

STAT

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Approved For Release 2003/05/05 : CIA-RDP80B01676R000700200051-9

4 MAY 1961

BRIEF FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Letter from Senator Henry Dworshak, dated 1 May 1961

1. Enclosed for your signature is a reply to a letter from Senator Dworshak concerning a report that the USSR has a nuclear powered aircraft.

2. A letter from Senator Dworshak requested a report concerning this development described in a UPI dispatch printed in the Idaho newspapers. The attached reply states that the flight characteristics of the reported nuclear aircraft are beyond the technical capabilities of the Soviet aircraft and nuclear industries and that  the STAT originator of this report, is a well-known fabricator of sensational intelligence reports.

3. Recommend that you sign the attached reply.

STAT  
HERBERT SCOVILLE, JR.  
Assistant Director  
Scientific Intelligence

Enclosure: Letter to Senator Henry Dworshak

STAT ~~commonly.~~ [redacted] has long been judged to be a perennial  
fabricator of sensational reports.

Sincerely,

Allen V. Dulles  
Director

ORIGINATED BY:

[redacted]

for Chief, Nuclear Energy Division/OSI

47 May 1961 STAT  
Date

COPIES/REMARKS:

STAT [redacted]

/Assistant Director/Scientific Intelligence

8 MAY 1961

Date

Rewritten by John S. Warner

8 May 1961

Legislative Counsel

Date

STAT [redacted]

Deputy Director/Intelligence

8 MAY 1961

Date

OSI/NED/NSA [redacted] jag [redacted]  
Distribution:

(4 May 1961) STAT

Orig. & 1 - addressee  
1 - DCI  
1 - AD/CI

1 - Leg. Counsel  
1 - Exec. Sec.  
2 - AD/SI

4 - NED/OSI

4 May 1961 STAT  
Date

**\* May 1961**  
**Date**

MAY 1961

8 MAY 1961

STAT  
STAT

- 1 - Addressee (Hand carry by Leg. C.)
- 1 - DCI
- 1 - DDCI
- 1 - IR
- 1 - DD/I
- 1 - IG
- 2 - AD/SE
- 2 - NEO/OSI
- 1 - Legislative Counsel w/basic

Senatorial Henry Hruschek  
United States Senate  
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Senator Hruschek:

This is in response to your letter regarding a report  
by [ ] that the USSR has a nuclear powered air-  
craft.

We have previously studied this and other reports of  
the same type and determined that the characteristics attri-  
buted to this nuclear aircraft are far beyond the technical  
capabilities of the Soviet aircraft and nuclear industries.  
For example, if the plane flew at the reported maximum speed  
of 3500 miles per hour, the air entering the aircraft would  
be heated by compression to about 2100° F. Thus the tempera-  
ture of the air at the intake of the nuclear engine would  
be at the maximum temperature limit of the engine's struc-  
tural materials and further heating for propulsion could not  
be introduced without causing a well-down of the engine.

This report by [ ] is one of the many that he  
has distributed concerning various subjects to the intelligence

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*Revised*